

THE Baptist Record

BRIEFS

DEADLINE SET FOR NORTS PREZ RESUMES

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — Recommendations or resumes for the office of president of New Orleans Seminary (NOBTS) must be submitted to the presidential search committee by Jan. 10, search committee chairman Frank Cox announced Dec. 4 after the 11-member committee's second meeting. Chuck Kelley, NOBTS president since 1996, announced his retirement Oct. 2 and will serve until July 31. Names and resumes should be emailed to Cox at nobtspresidential-search@gmail.com or sent via postal mail to Frank Cox, c/o North Metro Baptist Church, 1026 Old Peachtree Road NE, Lawrenceville, GA 30043.

CABRERA TO LEAD PUERTO RICO CONV.

ARECIBO, Puerto Rico (BP) — Felix Cabrera, president of the Southern Baptist Convention in Puerto Rico, is the new director of the Convención de Iglesias Bautistas del Sur de Puerto Rico. The executive board asked Cabrera to fill the executive post when the convention met for their annual meeting last week — the first full gathering of the convention since Hurricane Maria struck on Nov. 17. A native of Puerto Rico, Cabrera is currently serving as pastor of Iglesia Bautista Central Church in Oklahoma City and will preach his final sermon there on Dec. 23.

**OVER 50 SOULS SAVED AT
THANKSGIVING DINNER**

BALTIMORE, Md. (BaptistLIFE) — Christian Liberty Church in west Baltimore saw over 50 people come forward to accept Christ during the church's fifth annual O' Give Thanks Thanksgiving worship service and dinner on Nov. 18 at Frederick Douglass High School, attended by more than 600 people. Eighty missionaries helped, 53 people came forward to accept Christ as savior — 23 of those people joined the church — and 14 requested baptisms. Many others came forward for prayer for various needs.



High-flying pastor wows congregation

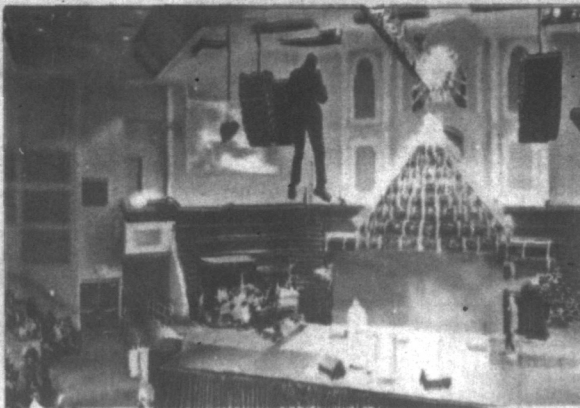
SOUTHAVEN, Miss. (BP and local reports)—Southern Baptist megachurch pastor Bartholomew Orr's recent object lesson caused a viral sensation on social media and major network talk shows across the nation.



Orr, pastor of multi-campus Brown Missionary Baptist Ch. in Southaven, descended from the rear heights of the worship center to the pulpit at the front of the room on a barely visible zip line to signify the return of Jesus to earth, as amazed church goers looked on.

The zip line was in place for the church's annual Christmas

FLYING HIGH — Southern Baptist pastor Bartholomew Orr used a zip line in his sermon delivery to signify Jesus' second coming. (Screen capture from YouTube)



Abortions continue multi-year downturn

WASHINGTON (BP and local reports) — The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported Nov. 23 that the total number, rate, and ratio of abortions in 2015, the latest year for which statistics are available, all declined by two percent from 2014.

In 2015, 638,169 abortions were reported to the CDC, while the rate was 11.8 abortions per 1,000 women who were 15-44 years of age. The ratio was 188 abortions per 1,000 live births. The rate and ratio reached their lowest points since the *Roe v. Wade* ruling legalized abortion in 1973.

The decline in all three measurements was especially dramatic from 2006 to 2015, the period analyzed by the CDC in its latest report. The total number of abortions fell by 24% during that span, while the rate and ratio decreased 26% and 10% respectively.

While the CDC's yearly report is helpful, its statistics are incomplete. States are not required to report information on abortion, and three — California, Maryland, and New Hampshire — have not provided data to the CDC for at least eight years.

see ABORTIONS on p. 5

see FLYING on p. 7

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From the editor

WILLIAM PERKINS

The gift that doesn't keep on giving

What a wonderful Christmas present. Caesars Entertainment Corporation in Paradise, Nv., just outside Las Vegas has announced plans to close their Tunica Roadhouse Casino in Tunica County by the end of January 2019. The company blames declining revenue.

Surprised? No one should be. Caesars had already closed the giant Harrah's Tunica Hotel & Casino, in 2014. That huge facility, one of the largest casino complexes built in Tunica County during the gambling boom, sits empty and deteriorating since the parent company shuttered it.

Tunica County alone went quickly from 11 casinos during the heyday of gambling to nine, and now there are eight. What's the bottom? The obvious answer is zero, when the kingpins in Las Vegas have finally drained as much money as they can from Mississippians and deposited it in their big bank accounts in Las Vegas.

It's a sad day in Tunica County, which has had its share of sad days thanks to the gambling/political cartel in Mississippi, but this is what happens when we pin all our hopes on something as foolish as "gaming."

We were warned from the beginning that gambling was not the economic miracle that the shills were boasting it would be. We were warned that competition would spring up in other states and siphon away devastating numbers of high-rolling gamblers (also known as suckers). We were warned that the social costs would far outweigh the "revenue" that state leaders were naively predicting would pour into state coffers without ceasing.

The troubling part is that it's all coming true. The pathetic part is that we should have seen it coming.

Atlantic City, N.J., went all in for gambling years before Mississippi's politicians and businessmen swooned to the same sales pitch. Atlantic City gambling was going to save the city. Heck, it was going to save the entire state of New Jersey, citizens were told. For a while there was a gambling boom in Atlantic City, and then...

Between 2013 and 2016, five major casinos shut down. Income at the remaining casinos started to decline. Other gambling venues opened, Mississippi included. People stayed away in droves because of the area's social ills, which were showing little visible improvement with the addition of problem gambling. Does all that sound familiar?

Atlantic City, hoping against hope for the gambling panacea that never arrived, is in a mess with no clear way out.

The Press of Atlantic City, citing studies published in Stockton University's twice-yearly South Jersey Economic Review, reported that tourist visits to the area in 2017 were the lowest in 36 years and that casinos provided 20% fewer jobs in 2016 than at the start of 2014.

Due to the near-complete dependence on vaporizing gambling money, the city has also suffered painful declines in work fields such as construction, accommodations, and local government, according to the Stockton University studies quoted in the Press. Even the city's bus line has experienced a drop in passengers.

Atlantic City's citizens should take heart, however. There are plenty of pie-in-the-sky predictions still being promulgated by local leaders despite the clear reality all around them.

"We are seeing and hearing from businesses that everybody is feeling pretty good about the outlook for the coming season," Greater Atlantic City Chamber President Joseph Kelly told The Press. "I think the look is optimistic toward 2018."

Speaking at the Public Relations Council of Greater Atlantic City in March of this year as reported by The Press, Casino Reinvestment Development Authority executive director Matthew J. Doherty said, "We will push out nothing but positive news."

Finally and not to be outdone, Atlantic City Mayor Frank Gilliam said at the same meeting as reported by The Press, "Atlantic City is a resilient icon, not just in New Jersey, but for the world."

Welcome to Mississippi, in a few short years.

Passing the Baton

Because of her faithful service to her Lord, Lottie Moon left a legacy of sacrificial teaching and evangelizing during a critical period for the Gospel in China. Being an exemplary missionary, her name was immortalized by Southern Baptists through the establishment of the annual Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, which supports the global missions efforts of Southern Baptists' International Mission Board (IMB) based in Richmond, Va.

When I served as an IMB trustee from 1996-2006, I learned so much about her life and why the Lottie Moon Offering is so significant for the SBC. In spring 2009, a friend who had moved to China in 1989 shared with me about his work there. We visited a number of Southern Baptist churches to give testimony to what God was doing in China, and during one of the stops in Texas we met Mike Smith of the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention who also had served as an IMB trustee and, like me, had studied at Southwestern Seminary in Ft. Worth.

Smith, now president of Jacksonville College in Texas, wondered what it would take to transport Lottie Moon's household items, including the precious guest book, back to the States. When he told us about a trip he had made to Pingdu, China, where Lottie Moon had lived, both my friend and I had no idea where that was but Smith put his trust in us and asked whether we could offer logistical help in moving Lottie Moon's belongings from Pingdu.

This was how the project to bring Lottie Moon's household items to Southwestern Seminary was born. In December 2009, her belongings from China came to the Fort Worth campus in a large cargo container as a gift from my home church, Antioch Church in Cambridge, Ma.

Today a digital presentation of the replica of Lottie Moon's house greets visitors at Mathena Hall's entryway. It serves as a challenging reminder of the Southern Baptist Convention's emphasis on global missions and education, and provides inspiration to future generations to fulfill the Great Commission.



Guest opinion
with Paul Kim

I thank God for the many people who invested their time and money to make it possible for us to see the replica of Lottie Moon's house in China.

God laid a burden on Smith's heart. As a fellow seminary classmate and IMB trustee coworker, he entrusted me with his idea. Then through connections and the help of many people, the plan came to fruition.

God brings people together this way to accomplish a mission. In Acts 9:15-16, God gave a message to Ananias to tell Paul, "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name."

When we read about the missionary journeys of the Apostle Paul in the Book of Acts, we see God calling His disciples to team up for the sake of the Gospel.

God is still at work in building up His church as He promised (Matt. 16:18). We are called to be His witnesses to the ends of the earth to make disciples of all nations in a church planting movement (Acts 1:8; Matt. 28:20).

Over a century ago in China, missionary Lottie Moon beautifully finished her race. It is now our turn and our duty to pass the baton of world missions to the next generation. May we leave clearly marked footsteps for them to imitate and follow.

Kim is the Asian-American relations consultant with the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee in Nashville and pastor emeritus of Antioch Church, Cambridge, Ma. His commentary appears courtesy of Baptist Press. Edited for style and length.

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December 13, 2018 THE BAPTIST RECORD

George H.W. Bush seen as friend of So. Baptists

HOUSTON (BP and local reports) — Former U.S. President George H.W. Bush, who died Nov. 30 in Houston, Texas, at age 94, is being remembered as a friend of Southern Baptists.

Bush held the U.S. presidency from 1989-93 following eight years as vice president under U.S. President Ronald Reagan. He is the last president to address the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) annual meeting in person.

An Episcopalian, Bush professed faith in Christ and met with SBC leaders both during his 1988 presidential campaign and during his time in the Oval Office.

Overflow crowd

Then-SBC President Morris Chapman, a native of Kosciusko and at the time a pastor in Texas, told Baptist Press (BP) in written comments on Dec. 3, "At my invitation in 1991, President Bush spoke to an overflow crowd of convention messengers at the annual meeting in Atlanta. It was very apparent that he felt right at home with people who loved God and His Word, and he was welcomed with numerous standing ovations."

Bush's commitments during his presidency to what Chapman termed school choice, defense of the unborn, and attendance at public worship were not a matter of political expediency, Chapman pointed out to BP, but rather "consistent hallmarks of a man of principle, faith, and dignity."

Chapman, who went on to serve as SBC Executive Committee president in Nashville from 1992-2010, added, "I had several occasions over the years, whether as president of the Southern Baptist Convention or its Executive Committee, to observe him in public and private settings. He was truly a man of great character."

Prayer important

Bush's 17-minute address to the SBC in 1991 touched on religious liberty, sanctity of human life, and the need to strengthen families, among other topics. Bush became visibly emotional, fighting back tears, when he began to speak of prayer, describing how he sought God during the Persian Gulf War of 1990-91.

"For me, prayer has always been important, but quite personal," Bush said. "You know us Episcopalians and like a lot of people, I worried a little bit about shedding tears in public for the emotion of it, but as [my wife] Barbara and I prayed at Camp David before the air war began, we were thinking about those young men and women overseas and I had the tears start down the cheeks and our minister smiled at me, and I no longer worried how it looked to others... We realized that in prayer what mattered is how it might have seemed to God."

Bush also spoke to Southern Baptists about the collapse of the Soviet Union, which culminated six months later when the U.S.S.R. officially dissolved. In the Soviet Union, Bush said, "places of worship long stood silent and subdued, forced underground by the iron fist of the state but now, churches and synagogues and the mosques buzz with life,



WHITE HOUSE CEREMONY — Richard Land (second from left), then the executive director of the Southern Baptist Convention's Christian Life Commission (CLC) in Nashville, attended a bill signing ceremony in December 1991 with U.S. President George H.W. Bush at The White House. The CLC is now known as the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission. (BP photo courtesy of Richard Land)

reclaimed by the people, joyfully emerging to proclaim their faith anew."

Rankin recalls

Mississippi native Jerry Rankin, president of Southern Baptists' International Mission Board in Richmond, Va., from 1993-2010, told BP from his home near Clinton that he feels an "awesome sense of the providence of God" when considering Bush's role in the Soviet Union's collapse and the Gospel's subsequent advance in the region.

The former Soviet bloc was part of an

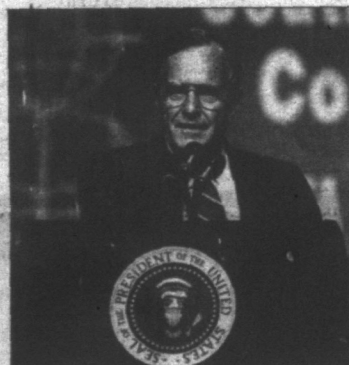
"emerging world that valued freedom and democracy, in which the suppressed people and the injustices and the oppressions had just reached a point that something would happen to bring about... change," Rankin said. The U.S.S.R. "was ready to boil over and open up. God just used [Presidents] Reagan and Bush and American diplomacy as pressures to bring that about."

When the Soviet Union fell during Bush's presidency, Rankin said, an open door to missionary presence emerged in Eastern Europe and the region's churches unleashed their potential, carrying out "a massive harvest and proclamation of the Gospel."

Support, oppose

During Bush's presidency, the SBC adopted a 1991 resolution praising the way he led the Persian Gulf War after Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein invaded neighboring Kuwait.

Individual Southern Baptists also commended his defense of unborn life. According to the National Right to Life Committee, Bush urged the U.S. Supreme Court to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, vetoed 10 bills that contained pro-abortion provisions, and prohibited abortions on U.S. military bases except to save the mother's life.



ADDRESSING MESSENGERS

Former U.S. President George H.W. Bush, also known as "Bush 41" to differentiate him from his presidential son of the same first and last name, addressed the 1991 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Atlanta. "For me, prayer has always been important, but quite personal," Bush told messengers. Bush died Nov. 30. (BP photo courtesy of Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archive)

At times, Southern Baptists disagreed with Bush. In 1990, BP reported some Southern Baptists objected to Bush's invitation of homosexual activists to a White House ceremony.

In 1991, the SBC adopted a resolution expressing opposition to a \$25,000 grant by the federal Centers for Disease Control to fund the National Lesbian and Gay Health Conference.

Another 1991 resolution criticized Bush for not opposing government funding of pornographic and sacrilegious art through the federal National Endowment for the Arts.

Overall, however, Bush appeared to enjoy a good relationship with Southern Baptists. BP reported during his 1988 presidential campaign, Bush met with about three dozen evangelical leaders

including Chapman; then-immediate past SBC President, the late Adrian Rogers, senior pastor of Bellevue Church, Memphis; and then-SBC President Jerry Vines, then-senior pastor of First Church, Jacksonville, Fla.

During Bush's time as president, he also met with Vines at The White House in Washington, D.C.

"I was honored to meet with President Bush in the Oval Office," Vines told BP via e-mail. "He was welcoming, warm, and cordial. The privilege to pray with and for him was very special to me."

Land's invitation

Richard Land, who became executive director of the SBC's Christian Life Commission (CLC) in Nashville (now the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission) in 1988, said he considered the possibility of becoming a member of Bush's administration.

During that year's presidential campaign, George H.W. Bush's son and future U.S. President George W. Bush visited Land at Criswell College in Dallas, where Land was vice president at the time.

George W. Bush told Land if his father won, he hoped Land would consider coming to Washington and helping them in an administration job, Land told BP. Land responded he was interviewing in two weeks to lead the CLC.

"Frankly," Land recalled saying, "I don't think they're going to pick me. It's very unlikely they're going to pick me and if they did, I would have to take it as providential" and accept the position.

Land was indeed called to the CLC, but he went on to meet with George H.W. Bush on several occasions while Bush was president.

"I always found him to be very courtly, very well-mannered, an almost patrician presence," Land said. "When you think of a president, you kind of like to think of a guy like George Bush."

Bush and Graham

Famed evangelist Billy Graham may have been the Southern Baptist with whom Bush was most comfortable when discussing faith. Bush and Graham vacationed together and attended church together on occasion, and Bush sought Graham's spiritual counsel for his children, according to the 2008 book by Nancy Gibbs and Michael Duffy titled, *The Preacher and the Presidents: Billy Graham in the White House*.

Bush advisor Craig Fuller said there were seasons of Bush's life in which it seemed Billy Graham "was the one person he was communicating with, and talking to, about his faith," according to *The Preacher and the Presidents*.

Bush assessed his own faith in his 1988 book titled, *Man of Integrity*, by answer the question of whether he had been born again.

"If by 'born again' one is asking, 'Do you accept Jesus Christ as your personal Savior?' then I could answer a clear-cut 'Yes.' No hesitancy, no awkwardness. But if one is asking, 'Has there been one single moment, above any others, in which your life has been instantly changed?' then I can't say that this has happened, since there have been many moments."

For decades across the Southern Baptist Convention, the largest missions giving effort takes place at Christmas time and is named after the great missionary Lottie Moon, who spent nearly 40 years in China sharing the Good News of Jesus. Lottie would have never dreamed that her name would come to be associated with what takes place annually in our churches and in our hearts, as we are reminded of the 7.7 billion people on this earth — billions of whom have never heard of Jesus and have never been given an opportunity to respond to the Gospel.

Charlotte Diggs Moon was born in Virginia on December 12, 1840. She died Dec. 24, 1912, on her way home to Virginia aboard a ship docked in the harbor of Kobe, Japan. Why would we have an offering for this work every year? Three simple reasons.

First — the explosion of human beings on our planet. Explosion? Absolutely. As the population of our world continues to grow exponentially, just think about that and dramatize it in your own personal experience. Every minute that passes by, over 250 people come to join us by birth on this planet. If you slow down enough today to find a quiet time, count the moments: "One, Two, Three, Four, Five, Six..." all the way to sixty. Think about the fact that in the minute of time you just counted, 250 people were born. The births continue all day/every day, new souls being born who need the privilege of hearing that their Savior has come.

If you sat and watched the clock quickly tick by for one hour, 15,000 new people have arrived. There were people who in our past made it pos-



Why Lottie?

sible for us to hear the Gospel. Our churches are filled with people who have come to know a Jesus who gives them everlasting life and who waits for us to respond to get the message to all those who are now coming along. Would you give sacrificially this Christmas season because of the explosion of all these new people arriving?

Second — the exclamation of Jesus. Repeatedly, Jesus looked to His disciples and pointed them to the harvest and said, "That's the reason you're here." In John 4:35, He said, "Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to

harvest." If the fields were white when He was here, they are far whiter today for there are many more souls that long to hear of hope and life, a future and a Savior. Repeatedly, Jesus gave us the commission to go. He sent His disciples out, and He sends His disciples out today, and He sends us to engage with the world all

"Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest."

John 4:35

the time, everywhere with the Good News. There is no greater opportunity ever to do that than through your prayers for and gifts to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. Jesus' exclamation was that we are to do this unrelentingly, continually, gloriously, until He returns.

Third — the expiration date.

You and I need to be a part of the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering today because it has an expiration date. Maybe it would be better said that there are two expiration dates. One, the time of this old world. It will not stand forever and the day will come when time and earth will be no more and eternity will be our dwelling place. You wonder how long this old world can stand in the condition it's in, in the moral corruption that is all around us, in the lack of care and commitment to God. How long?

Even more significant is the expiration date on you and me. The other morning I was fixing my bowl of cereal and went to the fridge and picked up the milk carton and just happened to notice the expiration date: Dec. 5. I quickly checked to see what day it was, thinking that day was the expiration day and sure enough, the calendar said Dec. 5. I went ahead and used the milk but after that I disposed of the little bit that was left in the container. How much of your life is left with opportunities that you can make a difference not only in your world but in the world of millions who need to know Christ who can make a difference in their lives forever? "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly," Jesus said (John 10:10).

That is why the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering exists — a glorious opportunity for you and me to be involved and engaged in touching the entire globe for Christ. Give and be blessed.

The author can be contacted at directions@mbcb.org.

Staff Changes



WEST CARTHAGE CHURCH, CARTHAGE, has called Mark Bowman as pastor. He is shown with his wife Beth.

MS POSITIONS

FRANKLIN BAPTIST CHURCH IN FLORA IS IN NEED OF A MINISTER OF MUSIC. Please send resume to FBC 2222 Cox Ferry Rd. Flora, MS 39071.

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MIDWAY BAPTIST CHURCH, LUCEDALE MS. IN THE HOWELL COMMUNITY IS SEEKING A BI-VOCATIONAL MUSIC DIRECTOR. Please send resume to midwaylucedale@gmail.com

SEEKING A FULL-TIME PASTOR — WEST SALEM BAPTIST CHURCH. Located east of Richton, MS in the northern part of Greene County. Please email resumes to Westsalemchurch@gmail.com

PARKWAY BAPTIST CHURCH, HOUSTON, MS, IS SEEKING A FULL TIME OR PART TIME WORSHIP LEADER. Please email resume to the search committee at randyrinehart63@gmail.com.

IMMANUEL BAPTIST OF VICKSBURG IS SEEKING A FULL-TIME ASSOCIATE PASTOR/YOUTH MINISTER. Please email resumes to mbull12@yahoo.com or mail to IBC Personnel Committee at 6949 Hwy 61 South, Vicksburg, MS 39180.

FULL TIME WORSHIP LEADER EXPERIENCED IN CHORAL CONDUCTING FOR SLAYDEN BAPTIST CHURCH. Send resume to Search Committee slaydenbaptist.com or mail to Search Committee, Slayden Baptist Church, 2534 Hwy 72, Lamar, MS. 38642

EASTWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH OF INDIANOLA IS RECEIVING RESUMES FOR A PART-TIME MINISTER OF MUSIC. Resumes may be emailed to Lynda Steed at steed_m@bellsouth.net or mailed to Eastwood Baptist Church, P. O. Box 466 Indianola, MS 38751 ATTN: Music Search Committee.

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH OF MERIDIAN, MS IS SEEKING A BI-VOCATIONAL MINISTER OF MUSIC. Our Worship Services are a Blend of contemporary and traditional music. Interested parties should send a resume to cbcinfo1@comcast.net For More Information Call: Sharon Seal @ 601-483-5432.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH LONG BEACH IS RECEIVING RESUMES FOR A FULL TIME MINISTER OF MUSIC. Send resumes to fbc1bsearchcommittee@gmail.com or First Baptist Church Long Beach Attn: Music Search Committee 300 North Cleveland Avenue Long Beach, MS 39560.

NEW PROSPECT BAPTIST CHURCH, OLIVE BRANCH, MS IS SEEKING A BI-VOCATIONAL MUSIC DIRECTOR. Please email resume to rcurtis@newprospect.net.

SEEKING A FULL-TIME PASTOR — BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH. Located at Meridian, MS in the Whynot community of Southern Lauderdale County. Please email resume to office@whynotbethany.org or mail to Bethany Baptist Church, 4475 Ponds Road, Meridian, MS 39301.

COUNTY LINE BAPTIST CHURCH, SOUTHERN JONES COUNTY, MS, IS SEEKING A FULL TIME PASTOR. Send resumes to Billy Sanders, 1779 Overt-Petal Rd., Overt, MS 39464, or email to annsparkman@att.net

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PULPIT SUPPLY AVAILABLE: Retired Southern Baptist Navy chaplain available for Sunday pulpit supply on short notice (pastor illness, vacation, rest, etc.). 100 mile radius of Hattiesburg. Deacon of Hardy Street Baptist Church. Graduate of New Orleans Baptist and Fuller Theological Seminaries. References available. Compensation unimportant. Contact him at 601-408-4808 or bennyhornsby.com

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CVWBG; VYO YAE AC PAMBLQNIQL: WE

WL EGQ DWCE AC DAO.

QUGQLWVYL EUA: QWDGE.

Clue: D = G

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Colossians 4:1

By Charles Marx, 1932-2004, © 2005

College News



BLUE MOUNTAIN COLLEGE (BMC) inducted 14 new members into the Alpha Chi National Honor Society that recognizes students from all academic disciplines. BMC's ETA Mississippi Chapter of Alpha Chi included inductees majoring in elementary education, biology, medical technology, business administration, exercise science, mathematics, and history.

In other Church News:

► **William Carey University (WCU)** Joseph & Nancy Fail School of Nursing has announced that its August 2018 graduates from the Tradition and Hattiesburg campuses have achieved a 100% pass rate on the NCLEX-RN exam for licensure that allows them to practice in all healthcare settings. WCU's newest licensed nursing graduates have entered professional roles in caring for patients in south Mississippi, Alabama, Louisiana, Texas, Minnesota, Arizona, and Alaska.

75 FOUNDATION FLASHBACK

Highlights from the history of your Mississippi Baptist Foundation shared in the format of their original publication in *The Baptist Record*. The following article was published on January 21, 1960.

JANUARY IS 'MAKE YOUR WILL' MONTH

By Harry Lee Spencer,
Executive Secretary
Miss. Baptist Foundation

The only state to ever adopt the old English laws known as the "statutes of mortmain," meaning "dead hand," was our own Mississippi. I discovered this back in the early thirties in writing a thesis for the seminary on the "Legal Aspects of American Christianity." This law was in effect until 1940 when it was changed and made to conform to the laws of all the other states.

Only since 1940 could anyone leave money or property in a will to any sort of religious body or institution.

Phase of Stewardship
During these 20 years not near enough emphasis has been given to this phase of stewardship, for it is a phase of Chris-

tian stewardship. We are accountable for what we give, for what we keep, and for what we leave. Therefore, by means of a will we can direct all or a part of our estates to the end of time and thereby practice complete stewardship.

"Your will is a legal instrument—it should be drawn by a competent attorney and properly executed." It should be done today, because "When you need a will it is too late to make one."

Well Qualified

The Baptist Foundation is qualified to give you all the assistance needed. We have one of the best attorneys in our state. If you have not already prepared your will, call on us; let us help you. If you are not sure your will is properly drawn, we can help you get it corrected.

>>>> Many in your church may never have considered the personal and Kingdom blessings available through a Last Will and Testament prepared with a biblical worldview. January is right around the corner; contact us today to schedule a visit with a Foundation team member. You may reach the Mississippi Baptist Foundation through our website: msbaptistfoundation.org, phone: 601-292-3210, or email: foundation@mbcb.org.

ABORTIONS

cont. from p.1

The Guttmacher Institute, which is affiliated with the abortion rights movement, covers all 50 states in its research and has reported similar declines in the abortion total and rate. In January 2017, Guttmacher said the rate fell to 14.6 abortions per 1,000 women in 2014, marking a decline of 14% since its most recent survey in 2011.

In its census of all known abortion providers in the country, Guttmacher found abortions in 2014 totaled 926,190, a decrease of more than 30,000 from the previous year.

Guttmacher has acknowledged the report has limitations. For instance, it reported only 58% of facilities it believes provided abortions in 2014 re-

sponded to the survey. Guttmacher used state health department information for 20% of facilities and made estimates on another 17%.

The persistent decline goes back to 1990 for the abortion total and the early to mid-1980s for the rate and ratio of abortion.

Abortion-rights advocates credit better contraceptive use and fewer abortion clinics. Seven states have only one abortion clinic in operation including Mississippi, according to an ABC News report in June.

Forty Days for Life, which sponsors semi-annual outreaches at abortion clinics, reports 99 clinics have closed and 186 clinic workers have quit after its campaigns since 2007.

Meanwhile, pro-lifers point to such factors as the growth and ministry of pregnancy care centers, the advent of ultrasound

technology, more state laws restricting abortion and requiring health and safety standards, and efforts to educate the public on the humanity of the unborn child. Surveys also have shown the millennial generation is more pro-life than older Americans.

The CDC's latest report also showed a dramatic increase in the use of non-surgical abortion methods, referred to by its manufacturers at "emergency contraception." The typical, two-step procedure described as medical or chemical abortion in the first eight weeks of gestation rose from 11.3% in 2006 to 24.2% in 2015, according to the CDC.

Readily available off the shelf in many Mississippi pharmacies, the typical price for these abortions that kill and expel a developing baby in the privacy of a home is about \$50.

Submission Guidelines

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published.

Preferred method: news may be submitted electronically to the e-mail address below, and must be included in the message segment of an e-mail form. Secondary method: news may be typewritten or neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper and mailed. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone. Due to ever-present virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments in JPEG format are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs must be submitted electronically

via e-mail, as attachments in JPEG format. **Hard copy photographs mailed through the postal service will not be accepted.** Photographs must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. Photographs containing inappropriate gestures and objectionable clothing will not be published. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items that do not reproduce well on newsprint are generally not publishable.

There is no guarantee that news items and/or photographs will be published, and unsolicited material will not be acknowledged or returned. All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date. Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. These guidelines are not meant to be exhaustive.

Submit news to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

THE VILLAGE VIEW



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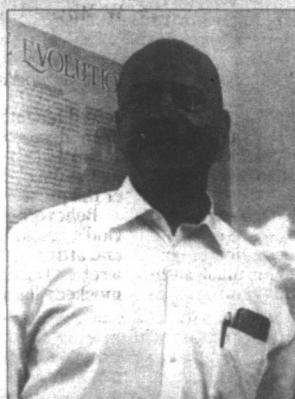
www.baptistchildrensvillage.com

GIFTS OF HONOR AND MEMORY

A portion of The Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful, and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.



► The Baptist Children's Village welcomes Rev. Larry Young as our newest trustee. Rev. Young is pastor of Spangle Banner Baptist Church in Pace, MS.



◀ The BCV Board of Trustees met recently for their quarterly meeting. Mr. William "Billy" Pyron of Madison (pictured left) will serve as the 2019 president. Dr. Victor Walsh of McComb (pictured right) served as the 2018 president and was recognized by the board with a plaque for his service.



Harley Davidson of Central Mississippi recently hosted their annual Christmas party for The Baptist Children's Village. This year Lieutenant Governor Tate Reeves was the special guest and spoke briefly, thanking all those who made this special event happen and provided gifts for the children. He also recognized the BCV staff for what they do daily to serve at-risk children and families in Mississippi. He closed with remarks recognizing Jesus Christ as the reason for the season and encouraging all to remember that throughout the holiday. Lt. Governor Reeves is pictured with Chrystelle Thames, BCV public relations director and Homer Orr, co-owner of Harley Davidson of Central MS.

NOVEMBER 16-30

MEMORIALS

Mr. John L. Holcomb

Rev. & Mrs. Allen H. Mapp

Mr. Rudy Holcomb

Mr. & Mrs. Clifton Porter

Mr. Carl "Eddy" Howard II

Ms. Bettye Howard

Mr. Carl E. Howard

Ms. Bettye Howard

Mrs. Nira Jennings

Mr. & Mrs. Charles F. Davis

Mr. Bob Tom Johnson Jr.

Dr. & Mrs. Bob Tom Johnson

Ms. Connie Johnson

Mrs. Sheila Huffman

Mrs. Jeanette King

Oldtown BC

Mrs. Doris Lipe

Mr. & Mrs. Charles F. Davis

Mrs. Yvonne Martin

Mr. & Mrs. Wayne R. Hall

Mr. Sam McGlofin

Mr. & Mrs. Paul Terry Howell

Mr. Bill Milton

Mr. & Mrs. Brooks H. Polk, Jr.

Mr. Michael Moudy

Mr. & Mrs. James H. Mitchell

Mr. Bobby Nichols

Valley Park BC

Mrs. Ruth Owens

Mr. & Mrs. Al M. Holmes

Mr. Ken Quantlebaum

Mr. & Mrs. Curtis A. Buchanan

Mrs. Theresa Ray

Valley Park BC

Mr. & Mrs. Harold (Myzette)

Roberts

Todd Roberts

Deborah Roberts Pugh

Mrs. Annie B. Rouse

Mr. & Mrs. Tommy A. Jones

Mr. Ralph Shurtleff

Mr. & Mrs. Bubba Foster

Ms. Judy Touchstone

Mr. & Mrs. Barney J. Albritton

Mrs. Mildred Travis

Ms. Jean W. Polk

Ms. Mary Helen Wall

Oldtown BC

Mrs. Janet Parker Williams

Mr. & Mrs. Arthur E. Bishop

Mr. Robert B. Woods

Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Tullman

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Merry Christmas from all The Baptist Children's Village staff and residents. We are very thankful for you and how God uses you in the lives of at-risk Mississippi children and families. You are a tremendous gift to our ministry and we wish you and yours a very blessed Christmas season.

"Thanks be to God for this indescribable gift!"

2 CORINTHIANS 9:15 NIV

Family? • Genesis 29:16-30

The theme of this week's lesson is "God Provides." Along the way we will discover how God used imperfect people with imperfect lives to advance His plans. I relate to this message well. On my Facebook page, I posted the following self-description, "I witness to the soul-saving power of God in Christ, an imperfect follower of a perfect Savior." The lesson title, "Family?" emphasizes how those closest to us can be the source of deception, hurt, and hardship.

Jacob's Proposal (29:16-20)

Once Jacob reached his uncle Laban's home, he discovered he had two daughters, Leah and Rachel. The brief descriptions of both daughters suffice to tell us Leah was unattractive but Rachel was very attractive (Gen. 29:17). Jacob loved Rachel, more a statement of preference than romance. He made an agreement with his uncle to work seven years in exchange for the right to marry the younger daughter. His proposal of marriage to Rachel as a reward for service to her father propelled him through seven years of exacting toil. Yet, we read those seven years "seemed to him but a few days because of his love for her" (Gen. 29:20; NASB). Jacob was so enamored with Rachel that the very idea of having her as his wife seemed like abundant compensation for his labor.

The verb for "love" in Genesis 29:18

and the noun "love" in Genesis 29:20 derive from the same Hebrew stem, carrying the idea of "preferring" or "putting first." The same verb is used in the Great Shema, Deut. 6:4, where God's people are commanded to love Him with all their hearts, souls, and might. In our present context, Jacob's love for Rachel indicates he prioritized his life around marrying her. She was the apple of his eye, his very reason for living. Rachel brought joy to Jacob's toil.

Such a powerful thought that joy can

be found in purposeful work. As believers, we can return to that same prioritizing love demonstrated in Jacob's life and commanded in Deuteronomy 6:5, by loving Jesus with all our heart, soul, and might. We can find joy in our work when we fulfill God's purpose for our lives.

Laban's Deception (29:21-24)

When the seven years were completed, Jacob sought the satisfaction of having Rachel as his wife. So his uncle gathered the extended family and friends

and made a feast. The unsuspecting Jacob entered the marriage tent at which time Laban substituted his older daughter Leah as Jacob's wife. The relationship was consummated before Jacob discovered his uncle's deception. As a side note, we are told that Laban gave his maid Zilpah to Leah to be her maid. Zilpah would figure significantly in the family's future history (Gen. 29:24).

What are we to make of this ironic twist of fate? Jacob had come to Laban in large part because he had to flee

the wrath of Esau, whom he had outmaneuvered and deceived on two major occasions. Jacob also had deliberately deceived

his father Isaac. The deceiver had been deceived. Something precious to Jacob had been denied him by Laban, just as Jacob had denied his older brother the precious blessing of Isaac.

Believers should take seriously that in God's economy, people reap the actions and attitudes they sow. The Apostle Paul wrote, "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this

he will also reap" (Gal. 6:7; NASB). As the prophet Obadiah proclaimed, "As you have done, it shall be done to you; your deeds shall return on your own head" (Obad. 15b; NASB).

Seven More Years (29:25-30)

The light of the new day exposed Laban's treachery against his nephew. Jacob's anger and hurt were expressed through his questions to Laban. "What is this you have done to me? Was it not for Rachel that I served you? Why then have you deceived me?" (Gen. 29:25). Jacob experienced the same type of hurt and anger he had inflicted on Isaac and Esau seven years earlier.

Laban appealed to local custom to defend his actions; the older daughter had to be married before the younger. He cunningly maneuvered Jacob into working seven more years for Rachel (Gen. 29:26-27). The phrase "complete the week" refers to the customary week long celebration of marriages.

Believers can thank God for His faithfulness to His promises even when our plans are contrary to His wise design. God is faithful, accomplishing His purposes through people with imperfect lives.

VanHorn is Dean of the Mississippi College School of Christian Studies and the Arts.



Explore the Bible

with W. Wayne VanHorn

Mary's Trust • Luke 1:26-38

The Gospel according to Luke: "Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile a narrative of the things that have been accomplished among us . . . it seemed good to me also, having followed all things closely for some time past, to write an orderly account for you, . . . that you may have certainty concerning the things you have been taught" (Luke 1:1,3,4 ESV). As you study today's lesson, remember Luke's writing was directed to the Gentiles with details and facts so that they would have certainty—no doubts.

Last week, our lesson focused on Matthew's narrative of Joseph and God's plan for his part in His story. Logically, Joseph knew he had several options on how to handle Mary's situation. But God sent an angel with specific instructions and "he did," without a word, what God told him to do. It took courage to submit to God's plan when it made no earthly sense. A quote by Winston S. Churchill states, "Fear is a reaction. Courage is a decision." In the first chapter of Luke, we read about Mary's fear, but we will also see her great courage as she also faced the call of God on her life.

Six months have passed since the angel made his announcement to Zacharias. Next, on God's timeline . . . sending the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, an insignifi-

cant town, to a virgin, Mary, betrothed to Joseph. His announcement: "Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women (v. 28 NKJV)!" Mary means "exalted one" and highly favored means you have been given divine grace by God. In the next verse, Mary is trying to comprehend all that is happening. She was troubled and considered this greeting. Perhaps she was

thinking, "I'm an ordinary girl, living an ordinary life, and I know the prophecy. Why would this be taking place in my life? I'm a sinner in need of the Savior like everyone else." Fear, her reaction, must have flooded her heart because Gabriel specifically tells her not to be afraid. She was the favored one and had found favor with God. Grace upon Grace! Gabriel reminded Mary she was to rely upon the presence and grace of God.

Continuing the announcement Gabriel details God's plan and instruc-

tions: "...you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end (vv. 31-33 ESV)." Don't read over the description about Jesus too quickly.

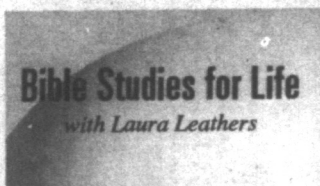
Here you find the summation of the entire work of Jesus Christ. You have his saving work in the name Jesus. You have His perfect righteous life in the term "great." You have his deity in the title "Son of the Most High." And you have His resurrection, His ascension and His glorious return all bound up in the promise that the Lord would give Him the throne of His father David" (John MacArthur, sermon entitled "The Divine Announcement to Mary, Part 2," Jan. 24, 1999). All of this was revealed to Mary. Her

response: how will this happen, I'm not yet married. God was asking her to simply trust His plan.

Gabriel answers, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God (v. 35 ESV)." A miracle would happen. She would be a pregnant virgin. Unimaginable? Impossible? And if to give Mary further evidence that she had been chosen and the prophecy was soon to be fulfilled; Gabriel presents the news her relative Elizabeth "in her old age has conceived a son." An impossibility was made possible, "for nothing is impossible with God (v. 37 ESV)." Luke's account continues the interchange between Gabriel and Mary showing no hesitation. Mary humbly submits herself and says, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word (v. 38 ESV)." It would take great courage to face the days ahead. Mary had to trust the power of God working in her life. And we know "she did."

Jesus was Mary's son, but she had to ask Him to be her Savior. Have you?

Leathers is a member of First Church, Madison.



FLYING

cont. from p. 1

production. For the past four years, the church has used a zip line at Christmas to fly in angels, drummers, and other

characters including people portraying Jesus.

Brown Church, with 11,101 resident members, baptized 226 members and averaged 4,850 in Sunday worship attendance in 2017, according to self-reported Southern

Baptist Convention church profile data.

As 2018 draws to a close, Brown Church has recorded 200 salvations and baptized 112 of them, with plans to baptize the others soon, Orr told Baptist Press.

Orr said that despite both negative and comical comments from an estimated 200 million hits a week after a brief video clip of his entrance was posted on social media, "God took the negativity and turned it into an opportunity

because the unique thing was, that little clip alone, just a minute, the message was real clear: He's coming. He's on His way back. Jesus Christ is returning. Here's the question, 'Are you ready for His return?'"

Just for the Record



FIRST CHURCH, SALTILLO, ordained two new deacons Nov. 18. Shown are Geoffrey Phillips, pastor Ronnie Hatfield, and Will Black.



NEW BETHEL CHURCH, CARROLL COUNTY, recently installed a new sign for the church.



GRIFFITH MEMORIAL CHURCH, JACKSON, ordained James Bowron and Lloyd McGowan to the deacon ministry Nov. 25. Shown are Bowron, his wife Angelia, pastor Andy Fullington, McGowan, and his wife Connie.



UNION CHURCH, SEMINARY, ordained Jacob Stroud as deacon. Shown with Stroud are Sarah, Jacob, Hannah, Hayleigh, and David Watts. Also, Jonathan Burge was licensed to the ministry. Shown are pastor Barry Armstrong, Elizabeth Burge, Burge, Brian and Nada Burge.



CENTER CHURCH, BLUE SPRINGS, held an infant/child dedication Nov. 18. Children dedicated by parents to God were Chloe & Hayden Burchfield, children of John & Morgan Burchfield; and Max Moffitt, son of John & Angie Moffitt. Mike Brazeal, pastor.



THRASHER CHURCH, PRENTISS COUNTY, recently made Christmas gifts to wish the residents of the Landmark Nursing Home a merry Christmas.



WASHINGTON CHURCH, NATCHEZ, ordained Melvin Grantham as deacon Dec. 2. Shown are Grantham, his wife Rachel, and pastor Carl Smith.



PROVIDENCE CHURCH, CLEVELAND, enjoyed trumpet player and WWII veteran Milton Lowe, former member of the US Army Band Nov. 11. Shown are Steven Lowe, Lowe, and his wife Joann. J.B. Hays, pastor.

Need a light?

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life." (John 8:12)

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you.
(I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins
and freedom from eternal
death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose
from the grave to forgive my sins
and to restore my relationship
with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ
into my life. From this time on,
I want to live in a loving relationship
with Him. (I receive Christ as
my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)
If you make a decision for Christ today, contact a local Southern Baptist church for spiritual guidance.